

mini the static

official newsletter of the Sierra Nevada Amateur Radio Society

SNARS COVID-19 FUN STUFF

Volume 1 number 3

Formerly SNARS Coronavirus Bored as Hell Antidote!

PRODUCT REVIEW: THE YAESU FT 817 - BIG THINGS COME IN SMALL PACKAGES - Information is from 2014 - FT-817 was first sold in 2000.



Yaesu builds the FT-817 in lots, about 800 units per lot. Lots 1 and 2 were sold only in Japan. From lot #3, about 80 units were sent to the USA for sale, and were sold a little before Thanksgiving 2000. One of the first radios sold went to W4WB. This radio has had every W4RT mod tested on it before anything was sold. As of Jan 2014 that radio is still going. Yaesu originally hoped to sell about 5000 units in the first 3 to 5 years. Currently, the FT-817 has been in production for 14 years, and as lot # 300 approaches, they are nearing a QUARTER-MILLION FT-817s sold! That is 250,000 radios sold. I don't believe there has ever been another radio so popular. The FT 817 has stood the test of time with users worldwide. The 817ND came out in 2004 and now we have the FT 818 basically the same radio with 6 watts output, TCXO-9 and larger internal battery. I have several 817's and still have the one I bought in 2000 one of the first from HRO. Also think about using it as a portable shortwave receiver !

RADIO HISTORY: ARRL HISTORY - A LOT YOU DIDN'T KNOW -

The American Radio Relay League (ARRL) is the largest membership association of amateur radio enthusiasts in the USA. ARRL is a non-profit organization, and was co-founded on April 6, 1914, by Hiram Percy Maxim and Clarence D. Tuska of Hartford, Connecticut. Who was Hiram Percy Maxim - What you didn't know -



<https://www.earlyaviators.com/emaxim09.htm>

Who was Clarence D. Tuska - A long great article -

[http://www.arrl.org/files/file/ARRL%20Heritage%20Museum/HMR%206\(A\)%20TUSKA.pdf](http://www.arrl.org/files/file/ARRL%20Heritage%20Museum/HMR%206(A)%20TUSKA.pdf)

HOW TO: PORTABLE SOLAR POWER - A lot of people ask what size battery do I need for portable operation - Too vague a question ! You should be asking yourself these questions. 1. How long am I going to be portable? 2. What power am I going to run? 3. How often will I be transmitting or receiving? 4. What is the weather going to be like (sunshine or overcast)? 5. What is the transceiver and other equipment power requirements ?

Have you thought solar? The cost of panels have come way down and could save you weight rather bringing along a bigger battery !

<https://oh8stn.org/blog/2018/04/28/portable-battery-solar-power-for-ham-radio/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ViQsZIJAEc>

https://thesolarstore.com/portable-foldable-solar-panels-c-21_183.html

You can buy solar kits from Harbor Freight, Amazon, EBay, HRO etc. There are many suppliers. I happen to like the PowerFilm Solar products. They are US made and have a good selection .

<https://www.powerfilmsolar.com/>



<https://www.solarmade.com/store/category/powerfilm-rollable-solar-panels>

Very good selection

There are solar panels to meet all your needs and budget! Try it, you may like it.

Till next time ... Stay tuned,

Don W7SSB

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